

# Irregular verbs

Irregular verbs do not follow the 'ed' rules for forming the past simple:

'walk' + 'ed' = walked [regular verb]

Some irregular verbs stay the same in both forms, others change a vowel and some change completely. Sometimes there are two possible forms for the past simple; the difference is sometimes regional.

**Note that** the list does not include all the compound verbs because they follow the same rules as the root verb. For example:

| Bare infinitive     | Past Simple         |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| eat/ <u>overeat</u> | ate/ <u>overate</u> |
| do/ <u>undo</u>     | did/ <u>undid</u>   |

| Bare infinitive    | Past Simple           |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| babysit            | babysat               |
| be                 | was, were             |
| beat               | beat                  |
| become             | became                |
| begin              | began                 |
| bend               | bent                  |
| bet                | bet                   |
| bid [farewell]     | bid/bade              |
| bid [offer amount] | bid                   |
| bind               | bound                 |
| bite               | bit                   |
| bleed              | bled                  |
| blow               | blew                  |
| break              | broke                 |
| breed              | bred                  |
| bring              | brought               |
| broadcast          | broadcast/broadcasted |
| build              | built                 |
| burn               | burnt/burned          |
| buy                | bought                |
| cast               | cast                  |
| catch              | caught                |
| choose             | chose                 |
| come               | came                  |

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>cost</b>              | <b>cost</b>                                    |
| <b>cut</b>               | <b>cut</b>                                     |
| <b>deal</b>              | <b>dealt</b>                                   |
| <b>do</b>                | <b>did</b>                                     |
| <b>draw</b>              | <b>drew</b>                                    |
| <b>dream</b>             | <b>dreamt/dreamed</b>                          |
| <b>drink</b>             | <b>drank</b>                                   |
| <b>drive</b>             | <b>drove</b>                                   |
| <b>eat</b>               | <b>ate</b>                                     |
| <b>fall</b>              | <b>fell</b>                                    |
| <b>feed</b>              | <b>fed</b>                                     |
| <b>feel</b>              | <b>felt</b>                                    |
| <b>fight</b>             | <b>fought</b>                                  |
| <b>find</b>              | <b>found</b>                                   |
| <b>fit</b>               | <b>fitted/fit</b>                              |
| <b>fly</b>               | <b>flew</b>                                    |
| <b>forbid</b>            | <b>forbade</b>                                 |
| <b>forecast</b>          | <b>forecast</b>                                |
| <b>foresee</b>           | <b>foresaw</b>                                 |
| <b>forget</b>            | <b>forgot</b>                                  |
| <b>forgive</b>           | <b>forgave</b>                                 |
| <b>freeze</b>            | <b>froze</b>                                   |
| <b>get</b>               | <b>got</b>                                     |
| <b>give</b>              | <b>gave</b>                                    |
| <b>go</b>                | <b>went</b>                                    |
| <b>grow</b>              | <b>grew</b>                                    |
| <b>handwrite</b>         | <b>handwrote</b>                               |
| <b>hang [execute]</b>    | <b>hanged</b> 'They hanged the murderer.'      |
| <b>hang [other uses]</b> | <b>hung</b> 'They hung a picture on the wall.' |
| <b>have</b>              | <b>had</b>                                     |
| <b>hear</b>              | <b>heard</b>                                   |
| <b>hide</b>              | <b>hid</b>                                     |
| <b>hit</b>               | <b>hit</b>                                     |
| <b>hold</b>              | <b>held</b>                                    |
| <b>hurt</b>              | <b>hurt</b>                                    |
| <b>input</b>             | <b>input/inputted</b>                          |
| <b>keep</b>              | <b>kept</b>                                    |
| <b>kneel</b>             | <b>knelt/kneeled</b>                           |
| <b>knit</b>              | <b>knitted/knit</b>                            |
| <b>know</b>              | <b>knew</b>                                    |
| <b>lay</b>               | <b>laid</b>                                    |

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>lead</b>                         | <b>led</b>                                     |
| <b>lean</b>                         | <b>leant/leaned</b>                            |
| <b>leap</b>                         | <b>leapt/leaped</b>                            |
| <b>learn</b>                        | <b>learnt/learned</b>                          |
| <b>leave</b>                        | <b>left</b>                                    |
| <b>lend</b>                         | <b>lent</b>                                    |
| <b>let</b>                          | <b>let</b>                                     |
| <b>lie [not tell the truth]</b>     | <b>lied</b>                                    |
| <b>lie [recline]</b>                | <b>lay</b>                                     |
| <b>light</b>                        | <b>lit/lighted</b>                             |
| <b>lose</b>                         | <b>lost</b>                                    |
| <b>make</b>                         | <b>made</b>                                    |
| <b>mean</b>                         | <b>meant</b>                                   |
| <b>meet</b>                         | <b>met</b>                                     |
| <b>mislay</b>                       | <b>mislaid</b>                                 |
| <b>mislead</b>                      | <b>misled</b>                                  |
| <b>mistake</b>                      | <b>mistook</b>                                 |
| <b>overcome</b>                     | <b>overcame</b>                                |
| <b>pay</b>                          | <b>paid</b>                                    |
| <b>put</b>                          | <b>put</b>                                     |
| <b>quit</b>                         | <b>quit</b>                                    |
| <b>read</b>                         | <b>read [sounds like 'red']</b>                |
| <b>rid</b>                          | <b>rid</b>                                     |
| <b>ride</b>                         | <b>rode</b>                                    |
| <b>ring</b>                         | <b>rang</b>                                    |
| <b>rise</b>                         | <b>rose</b>                                    |
| <b>run</b>                          | <b>ran</b>                                     |
| <b>say</b>                          | <b>said</b>                                    |
| <b>see</b>                          | <b>saw</b>                                     |
| <b>seek</b>                         | <b>sought</b>                                  |
| <b>sell</b>                         | <b>sold</b>                                    |
| <b>send</b>                         | <b>sent</b>                                    |
| <b>set</b>                          | <b>set</b>                                     |
| <b>shake</b>                        | <b>shook</b>                                   |
| <b>shave</b>                        | <b>shaved</b>                                  |
| <b>shine [make something shiny]</b> | <b>shined [regular]</b> 'He shined his shoes.' |
| <b>shine [emit light]</b>           | <b>shone/shined</b> 'The sun shone.'           |
| <b>shoot</b>                        | <b>shot</b>                                    |
| <b>shut</b>                         | <b>shut</b>                                    |
| <b>sing</b>                         | <b>sang</b>                                    |
| <b>sink</b>                         | <b>sank</b>                                    |
| <b>sit</b>                          | <b>sat</b>                                     |
| <b>sleep</b>                        | <b>slept</b>                                   |

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>slide</b>        | <b>slid</b>           |
| <b>smell</b>        | <b>smelt/smelled</b>  |
| <b>speak</b>        | <b>spoke</b>          |
| <b>speed</b>        | <b>sped/speeded</b>   |
| <b>spell</b>        | <b>spelt/spelled</b>  |
| <b>spend</b>        | <b>spent</b>          |
| <b>spill</b>        | <b>spilt/spilled</b>  |
| <b>split</b>        | <b>split</b>          |
| <b>spoil</b>        | <b>spoilt/spoiled</b> |
| <b>spread</b>       | <b>spread</b>         |
| <b>spring</b>       | <b>sprang/sprung</b>  |
| <b>stand</b>        | <b>stood</b>          |
| <b>steal</b>        | <b>stole</b>          |
| <b>stick</b>        | <b>stuck</b>          |
| <b>sting</b>        | <b>stung</b>          |
| <b>stink</b>        | <b>stank/stunk</b>    |
| <b>strike</b>       | <b>struck</b>         |
| <b>sweep</b>        | <b>swept</b>          |
| <b>swim</b>         | <b>swam</b>           |
| <b>swing</b>        | <b>swung</b>          |
| <b>take</b>         | <b>took</b>           |
| <b>teach</b>        | <b>taught</b>         |
| <b>tear</b>         | <b>tore</b>           |
| <b>tell</b>         | <b>told</b>           |
| <b>think</b>        | <b>thought</b>        |
| <b>throw</b>        | <b>threw</b>          |
| <b>troubleshoot</b> | <b>troubleshoot</b>   |
| <b>understand</b>   | <b>understood</b>     |
| <b>undertake</b>    | <b>undertook</b>      |
| <b>upset</b>        | <b>upset</b>          |
| <b>wake</b>         | <b>woke</b>           |
| <b>wear</b>         | <b>wore</b>           |
| <b>weep</b>         | <b>wept</b>           |
| <b>wet</b>          | <b>wet/wetted</b>     |
| <b>win</b>          | <b>won</b>            |
| <b>wind</b>         | <b>wound</b>          |
| <b>write</b>        | <b>wrote</b>          |



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